

# Chicago Tribune



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## Women Today

### Progress and Challenges

BY NARA SCHOENBERG | Tribune reporter

#### CONSIDER THE NUMBERS

■ In Chicago, there are 1,081,000 women 18 or older; that's 52 percent of the adult population. (*U.S. Census*)

■ Women account for 60 percent of Chicagoans 65 and older. (*U.S. Census*)

■ There are 283,400 single working mothers with children younger than 18 in Illinois. (*National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies*)

■ In 1970, 41 percent of U.S. higher education students were women. In 2010, 57 percent were women. (*The Social Science Research Council's Measure of America*)

■ In 2010, 60 percent of graduate degrees were awarded to women. (*Measure of America*)

■ In 2011, 57 percent of the students enrolled in degree-granting institutions of higher learning in the U.S. were women. (*National Center for Education Statistics*)

■ In 2011, 26 percent of U.S. college presidents were women, up from 21 percent in 2001 and about 10 percent in the early 2000s. (*Association of American Colleges and Universities*)

■ Harvard College students who are female: 50 percent. (*U.S. News & World Report*)

Marissa Mayer is the CEO of Yahoo, Christina Paxson is the president of Brown University, and Hillary Rodham Clinton is the early front-runner in 2016 presidential polls.

But if women have made tremendous strides in employment, education and politics in recent years, they continue to face stubborn barriers and significant roadblocks.

"The blunt truth is that men still rule the world," Sheryl Sandberg wrote in her recent best-seller, "Lean in: Women, Work and the Will to Lead."

"Of the 195 independent countries in the world, only 17 are led by women."

In the United States, women are the minority in Congress, in corporate boardrooms and in the higher reaches of academia.

Nationally, the median annual pay for a woman working full time is \$36,900 a year, while the median pay for a man is \$47,700, according to the National Partnership for Women & Families. That means that women are paid 77 cents for every dollar paid to men.

And for those women who do want to "lean in" and narrow the gap, the hurdles are considerable. In Illinois, full-time infant care in a child care center costs an average of \$12,200 a year, or 49 percent of the median income for single moms in the state.

■ Harvard Business School MBA class of 2013 students who are female: 39 percent. (*Harvard Crimson*)

■ At age 25, 30 percent of women and 20 percent of men have bachelor's degrees. (*Bureau of Labor Statistics*)

■ In 2009-2010, the poverty rate for single-mother households in Illinois was 38 percent. The poverty rate for single-mother households with children younger than 5 was 50 percent. (*Voices for Illinois Children*)

■ In Illinois, full-time infant care in a child care center costs an average of \$12,200 a year — that's 49 percent of the median income for single moms and 14 percent of the median income for married couples. (*National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies*)

■ In Illinois, full-time care for a 4-year-old in a child care center costs an average of \$9,000. (*NACCRRRA*)

■ At Chicago's 50 largest publicly reporting companies, 17 percent of members of the boards of directors are women and 15 percent of executive officers are women. (*2012 Census Report from The Chicago Network*)

■ In 2012, 16 of Chicago's 50 largest publicly reporting companies had women in the "top earner" bracket, down from 19 companies in 2011. (*The Chicago Network*)

■ Of the top earners at Chicago's largest publicly reporting companies, 8 percent are women. (*The Chicago Network*)

■ There are 78 women in the U.S. House of Representatives — that's 18 percent of the total number of representatives. There are 20 women in the Senate, or 20 percent of the total number of senators. (*Rutgers' Eagleton Institute of Politics*)

■ In Illinois, the median annual pay for a woman working full time is \$39,200; for a man, it's \$50,800. (*National Partnership for Women & Families*)

■ Women of color experience an even greater wage gap. African-American women working full time in Illinois are paid just 71 cents for every dollar paid to all men, or \$14,500 less per year. (*National Partnership for Women & Families*)